

THE TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

By Andrew Strom.

Andrew believes this is probably the most important article he has written in years.

We have discussed many aspects of “reformation” and structural change needed in the church. But the two secrets of Revival that we are about to look at, have very little to do with these kinds of “outward things.

Merely changing the structures will achieve very little in itself. It is like re-arranging the “boxes” or the outward shell. It is like trying to form a new wineskin in forgetting about the ‘new wine’ that goes in it.

So it is high time that we talked about obtaining this **NEW WINE** from God. That is what true revival is all about!

Some of you will have read about these “two secrets” before; but please read this article anyway, because I am going to be applying them in a way that goes beyond what has been written in the past.

The two key questions that we will be covering in this article are: **1)** How do I get into a state of “Personal Revival”, and **2)** How do we get from there to into a state of “Corporate Revival”?

As many of you already know, I have been studying Revival history now for many years. I have looked at Revivals from recent from decades, and Revivals from centuries ago; and after all this research, I have found that the secrets of Revival seem to boil down to 2 main things.

These things are: **1)** Extremely deep **REPENTANCE**, and **2)** A kind of “wrestling, agonizing” prayer—crying out to God for the “**OUTPOURING**” of His Holy Spirit.

These two things have been the secrets to countless Revivals down the ages—and I fully believe they will be so again. That is why there is **NOTHING** more important that we need to be discussing right now.

ACTUALLY “EXPERIENCING” DEEP REPENTANCE

You have probably heard of Frank Bartleman’s statement from the ‘Azusa Street’ Revival: “I have received from God early in 1905 the following keynote to revival: ‘The **DEPTH** of revival will be determined exactly by the depth of the Spirit of **REPENTANCE**.’ And this will obtain for all people, at all times.”

I can affirm that all history backs up Bartleman’s words here. And I can also tell you that if you want to get into a truly “Revived” state—or a state of “Personal Revival”—then deep repentance is one of the keys.

What we often find is that Christians have turned away from a lot of the “obvious” sins, such as lying, stealing, adultery, etc. But there are other things they are aware of in their lives that are not right. It is dealing with these “other things” that can be the key to a far greater intimacy with God. Do you know that God **HATES** all sin, and that when you get close to God then your heart will **HATE SIN** just like HE does?

So let's get practical with this. Here is what you need to do to deal with these things at a **DEEP** level: **First**, get off by yourself with God. You need a couple of hours of more in a quiet place alone with Him. **Second**, ask yourself and plead with God to "shine His light" into your heart—To show you any unclean thing, whether it be unforgiveness, lust, speaking against people behind their backs, holding grudges, little "white" lies, etc. Ask God to show you how He feels about sin. Ask Him to shine His light deep inside you and show you things that you need to confess and renounce and ask forgiveness for. In some cases, you might need to go to a brother or sister and apologize to them or even make restitution. Make sure the repentance goes to the **DEEPEST LEVEL** possible. Confess each sin specifically to God, turn from it and ask God to cleanse you. With a lot of people it is these so-called "**MINOR**" sins that are holding us back.

Here is one last quote on this subject from Evan Roberts of the Welsh Revival: "**First**, is there any sin in your past with which you have not honestly dealt—not confessed to God? Fall on your knees at once. Your past must be put away and cleansed. **Second**, is there anything in your life that is doubtful—anything you cannot decide whether it is good or evil? Away with that! There must not be a trace of cloud between you and God. Have your forgiven everybody—**EVERYBODY**? If not, don't expect forgiveness for your sins..."

This issue of **TRULY** forgiving those who have hurt you can be a big one. It is important to be **BRUTALLY HONEST** with yourself. Is there still "bad feeling" deep inside you towards certain people? Is there a trace of bitterness when you speak about that person? We all need to get before God and repent and renounce all unforgiveness from deep within us. Going through this whole "deep repentance" process is the first key to personal revival.

Charles Finney said, "Unless I had the spirit of prayer I could do nothing...I found myself unable to preach with power and efficiency, or to win souls..." George Whitefield said: "Whole days and **WEEK** have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer..." Frank Bartleman wrote: "At night I could scarcely sleep for the Spirit of Prayer...Prayer literally consumed me." And D.M. McIntyre wrote: "Before the great revival in Gallneukirchen broke out, Martin Boos spent hours, days and often nights in lonely agonies of intercession. Afterwards, when he preached his words were as flame, and the hearts of the people as grass."

As history shows, the church can only expect true Revival when a remnant of God's people get **DESPERATE**—desperate about backslidden state of the church, desperate about the luke-warmness within them and all around them, desperate about sin and compromise, desperate about sin and compromise, desperate about the fact that God is not **GLORIFIED**, that He is not truly **LORD** of His church, that His words are mocked and largely seen as irrelevant by a dying world. Revival will come when God's people truly humble themselves, when they replace their "positive imaging" ("Rise up, you people of power", etc), with the reality of James' lament: "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up" (James 4:9-10).

As I said of Evan Roberts: "He would break down, crying bitterly for God to bend them, in an agony of prayer, the tears coursing down his cheeks, with his whole frame writhing." And John Wesley asked: "Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down."

HOW TO "WRESTLE" IN PRAYER

Brothers, Now, it is very important to realize that this type of prayer is not just for "special" people or leaders. It is absolutely one of the keys to "personal Revival" for everyone of us. The Bible makes

it very clear that the “effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man **“availeth much”**”; and is available to all of us.

And history shows us that “wrestling Revival Prayer” can actually be **TAUGHT** to Christians. This comes through loud and clear in the book ‘Anointed for Burial’, which is Todd and DeAnn Burkes account of the mighty Revival in Cambodia in the 1970’s. It occurred when God had already been moving there for some time. Todd wrote: “Referring to Genesis 32, I told them how Jacob **“WRESTLED”** with the Lord until He blessed him. ‘If we expect power and blessing from the Lord, we are going to have to be willing to wrestle with Him in prayer and fasting, in self-denial, in taking up our cross, ’I said. Then I shared with them from a devotional book by Hudson Taylor, “An easy-going, not-self-denying life will never be one of power.” With that, everyone began to wrestle in prayer, and before long, the blessing came.”

When these people broke up into prayer groups and began to “wrestle” with God in prayer as Todd had taught them, the result was actual **“OUTPOURINGS”** of the Holy Spirit. (ie. The Holy Spirit descending upon whole groups of Christians just like in Acts, with incredibly power-ful results). It was an amazing time.

Notice that these Christians were actually **TAUGHT** to “wrestle” with God in this way; and they simply went and did it.

Early in the 1904 Welsh Revival, Evan Roberts taught the children of Moriah to pray this simple prayer: “Send the Spirit to Moriah for Jesus Christ’s sake.” Later, he developed this same concept for his general meetings.—Because it was vital that people plead with God to “send His Spirit” down upon them.

After all, this is exactly what Pentecost was all about. It was the 120 in the upper room, crying out to God for 10 days, and then God “sending His Spirit” like a mighty rushing wind, and filling them to overflowing. In the past 50 years, there have been many powerful Revivals in which God outpoured His Spirit in a similar way. When God “outpours” His Spirit like this, it is far more than a person simply being baptized in the Spirit—It is a general “outpouring”.

In fact, an “Outpouring of the Holy Spirit” is the essence of what Revival truly is; and just like Pentecost, the result is that many become **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit, and many others become greatly **CONVICTED** of their sin. True Revival is the Glory of God coming down. It is His Spirit being **“POURED OUT”** in a specific way/place or upon a specific people. We need to ‘wrestle’ with God to see such an outpouring occur in our day.

Now, before you can “wrestle’ with God in prayer, here is what you need to do:

1. Become **DESPERATE** to see God **GLORIFIED** in the earth;
2. Cleanse your “hands” and your “heart” so that you can enter into the throne-room of God.
3. Plead with God to outpour His “Spirit of prayer” upon you
4. Nurture His “fire” in your heart, so that you can “agonize” in prayer before Him.
5. When you do pray, be very **SPECIFIC IN** “wrestling” with God to outpour His Spirit upon **YOURSELF** or upon a specific group—we all need this fresh infilling.

If you can do these simple things, then **TODAY** is the day when you can begin to “wrestle” with God in prayer. Do not delay. This could be the key to seeing you transformed by “personal Revival” and coming into a far deeper communion with God. **IN SUMMARY:** Having studied Revivals now for over 20 years, I am convinced that the road to “Personal Revival” is really the same as the road to ‘corporate revival’. The major keys have always been “deep repentance” and ‘agonizing prayer’.

Our motives for seeking God must never be selfish ones. We should be seeking Him for His own sake, not for what He can “do for us”—It is to see **HIM GLORIFIED** that we ask these things.

So, my friends, all I can do is urge you to get into a quiet place and give yourself to hear-searching repentance and “agonizing” prayer until you see a massive “**BREAKTHROUGH IN YOUR CHRISTIAN WALK.**” We all need to be filled with His Spirit over and over. Since I was 17, I would attribute most every spiritual breakthrough in my life to these two ‘revival secrets. They have truly revolutionized my life.

What about “Corporate” Revival—where God’s Spirit is poured out upon whole communities/cities? Well, what God will often do is what He did at **PENTECOST**—He will take His “revived ones” and use them to bring Revival to others. In other words, He can use them to speak Truth and carry His anointing into whole areas—and to **PRAY** for further outpourings!

So what does God need to find in the earth today? Simply **GROUPS** of “Revived” Christians who can begin to preach repentance and pray for God’s Spirit to be outpoured. It all starts with people who have been “Revived”.

As A.T. Pierson wrote, “From the day of Pentecost, there has been not one great spiritual awakening in any land which has not begun in a union of prayer, though only among 2 or 3; no such outward, up-ward movement has continued after such prayer meetings declined.”

If you are someone who decides to **ACT** on what you have read today, then please write to me and let me know the results, my friends? I now these truths actually **WORK** in the real world because I have experienced them myself. I pray that they will truly revolutionize many lives.

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-THE “OUTDOOR CHURCH” HOMEPAGE.

-PROPHETIC SUPERSITE:

-REVIVAL SUPERSITE.